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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Division of Community Development Task Group ended weeklong public meetings on decentralizing Local Government Support Centers**

Window Rock, AZ - The Division of Community Development Decentralization Task Group ended a weeklong series of public meetings on the proposed decentralization plan. This proposed plans will transition the 5 Agency Local Government Support Center (LGSC) into 15 regionalized service support centers by FY' 2014.

Leonard Chee, Division Director of Community Development and the task group members presented the plans at Smith Lake, N.M., White Cone, Ariz., Tuba City, Chinle and Nenahnezad, N.M. during the week of November 18-22, 2013.

On average, approximately 100 individuals attended each meeting. A diverse group of community members, chapter officials and staff offered their recommendations.

The task group accepted oral and written comments. The comments were recorded and transcribed for a summary report to be provided to the Navajo Nation Budget and Finance Committee and the general public.

These comments reflected the strong public support, practically from the youth, who were pleased with the proposed jobs and economic opportunities.

These meeting were intended to provide information on the proposed plan and offer the public a forum for individuals in each Agency, to offer their recommendation and concerns.

The support for this plan was not evident at first, however as questions were asked and answered, the support increased. "The first misconception of the effort, was that this was government reform, this is only the

establishment of the proposed 15 services center, staff and their administrative functions,” said Leonard Chee.

“This proposal would streamline the administrative functions and bring much needed technical support closer to chapters, practically those 22 chapters who are in the process of LGA certification,” said Mr. Chee. “Finally, I would like to thank all those who participated and offered their recommendations, these comments will be shared at the highest level.

These meetings are a result of a B&F Committee directive issued on July 05, 2013, to Division of Community Development to develop decentralization plans. The B&F allocated funds in the amount of 3.0 million dollars to establish regional service centers by fiscal year 2014.

Public comments will be accepted until December 06, 2013. They can be made by phone, 505-371-8466 or 8464; by email: [lchee@nndcd.org](mailto:lchee@nndcd.org) or [infor@nndcd.org](mailto:infor@nndcd.org); by mail to Division of Community Development, P.O. Box 1904, Window Rock, AZ 86515.

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